

Regular Meeting of Borough Council
Monday September 8, 1997

President Simpson called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM with the following members present: Mr. Woodward, Ms. Giles, Mrs. Gustafson, Mr. Schmitt, Mr. Eline, Mr. Kreisher and Mr. Andrews. Mr. Troxell and Mayor Linn were absent. Staff present included Mr. Sterner, Mr. Lawver, Mr. Weikert, Dr. Powell, Mr. Little and Chief Gantz.

Also attending the meeting were Beth Kanagy of the *Times*, Stacey Schmeidel of Gettysburg College and Polly Parone of the Retail Merchants. John Kricten and Dave Smith attended to answer questions concerning their HARB application, and Bobby Housch to observe.

After opening ceremonies Mrs. Simpson wished both Mayor Linn and Secretary Stull speedy recovery from their illness.

Ms. Schmeidel informed Council that the College was aware of recent problems involving students. The enrollment is at a record high, with many students living off campus. Her office, as well as student life, are concerned about student behavior. College officials have met with Chief Gantz to seek solutions to the issues. She offered apologies from the College, and its assistance where possible.

Chief Gantz acknowledged that there have been numerous complaints involving underage drinking, disorderly conduct, open container, public drunkenness, and streaking. The department's alcohol patrol has been busy with many arrests. He indicated that Dean Ramsey is willing to assist with visits to sites, faster response with discipline, and assistance from College Security. Chief Gantz will be supplying the College with a daily e-mail report of overnight activity.

Mr. Andrews reported that the Legislative Committee discussed the joint meeting with Cumberland Township Supervisors.

Mr. Kreisher advised Council there was little to report from Public Works, to examine the written report for details of the meeting. Mrs. Gustafson opined that the cost to send Mr. Lawver to Tennessee (\$400) to bring back a load of compost for demonstration was excessive. She suggested that the County could establish samples and visuals to be placed at various locations around the County. She also mentioned that the County or other municipalities could assist with the cost of transporting the compost. Mr. Sterner was instructed to convey these ideas to the county, and the Public Works Committee will reconsider the issue at its next meeting.

Mr. Eline reported the Community Development Committee had met to discuss comments received from the public concerning the zoning amendments. The Committee decided at that meeting to designate the first three properties along Carlisle Street directly north of Lincoln Avenue as R-1, (originally included in the RO district by the Planning Commission). Subsequent to the meeting he had received telephone calls from two of the landowners, Mrs. Gustafson and Mrs. Ritter, who were concerned that an R-1 designation would change current and historic uses for their properties, as well as inhibiting the College at the Paxton Hall. Mrs. Gustafson suggested that other options possibly be considered if a change was being proposed to the Planning Commission's final document. Mr. Eline, in

view of the concern of the residents, offered a compromise by including these three properties in the R-2 district which is directly adjacent to the east along Lincoln Avenue. Another possibility would be to maintain Paxton Hall as RO. After much discussion, Mr. Andrews moved, seconded by Mr. Woodward, to designate the three properties as R-2. Motion carried with Mrs. Gustafson abstaining.

Mr. Eline continued the report on the committee's recommendations for minor adjustments in the zoning amendments, which have been endorsed by the Borough's consultant URDC: That subsection 1525.4.D be deleted as there is another Borough Ordinance dealing with tire storage; to delete subsection 1525.5 relating to keeping of pets; adding a definition for paving; and two grammatical corrections. Ms. Giles moved Mrs. Gustafson seconded to approve these recommendations. Carried unanimously.

With all now ready for final adoption, Mr. Eline moved, second Mr. Schmitt, to authorize the solicitor to prepare the ordinance amending the Zoning Ordinance and advertise for adoption at the October meeting of Council. Adopted unanimously. Copies of the proposed ordinance will be placed for public review in the Municipal Office, the County Law Library, the Adams County Library and the Gettysburg *Times*.

On another matter, Mr. Eline reported that Manager Sterner had sent a letter to Giant Foods indicating the Borough's displeasure with their decision to move the store out of town, and not permitting another grocery store to occupy the present West Street location. He assured Council that the Community Development Committee will continue its efforts to convince Giant Foods to reconsider their plans. A press campaign intended to generate public support will be considered.

Mr. Schmitt moved, second Mr. Andrews to approve all bills and payrolls. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved Mr. Schmitt second Ms. Giles to adopt the ordinance authorizing the Borough to join with the Capital Region Blue Cross Blue Shield Pool. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Schmitt moved Ms. Giles seconded to adopt the ordinance authorizing the Borough to join with the Pennsylvania Local Government Investment Trust (PLGIT), and authorizing the President to enter into the trust agreement. Motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Gustafson reviewed the minutes of the recent HARB meeting, detailing the projects recommended by HARB for Council's approval. Mr. Shaffer explained in detail the proposal for the reuse of the Gettysburg Times building on Carlisle Street. Mrs. Gustafson moved second Mr. Eline to approve the HARB consent agenda. Carried unanimously.

Mrs. Gustafson continued by reporting the HARB will be celebrating a 25th anniversary at the beginning of their September 24 meeting. All living past members of HARB have been invited to attend, as well as Borough Council. She urged Council's attendance to observe the occasion, and suggested that the Borough supply light refreshments for the evening. Moved Mr. Eline with Mrs. Gustafson second the expenditure of funds for modest refreshments. Carried unanimously.

Ms. Giles reported the Safety Committee did not meet in August, however two ordinances have been prepared and advertised for tonight's meeting. Moved Ms. Giles second by Mr. Woodward to approve the ordinance amending the Assemblage Ordinance. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved Ms. Giles second Mr. Andrews to adopt the ordinance amending the Transient Retail Merchant Ordinance. Carried unanimously.

Mr. Woodward reported that he along with several Councilor's and staff met with East Berlin officials to learn about their contracted waste hauling system. Their system has been very successful and saved citizens considerable money as well as cleaning up their town. The information obtained will be very useful as we develop our plans for solid waste hauling.

Solicitor Oyler reported that the Patti property was sold at sheriff sale for an amount slightly over the Borough's expense in the property. Those costs recovered included our cost of demolition, legal expenses and interest to date.

Mr. Oyler also noted that our current waste hauling ordinance establishes a five year permit period for licensees. He suggests that Council consider amending that ordinance to reduce the term of the permit to one year. He was authorized to prepare the ordinance for the October meeting.

Moved Mr. Andrews and seconded by Mr. Kreisher to hire Randy Guise to trap skunks and other animals through out the Borough at a cost of \$50 set up fee and \$10 per animal trapped. He will use 12 traps for a one month period, and the total cost will not exceed \$1,000. Motion carried unanimously.

Council set Wednesday September 17 at 7:00 PM for the annual salary board meeting.

Mr. Sterner reported that GS Communications is making service connections to residents with a projected completion by the end of the year. Upon final completion, the old cable will be removed. The price for the 58 channels will increase to \$26.50 per month.

As a member of the County's Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC), Mr. Sterner reported that the committee has made a recommendation to the Commissioners to proceed with the Bedminster process of composting solid waste, and to begin negotiations with that firm. It appears the commissioners are prepared to accept that recommendation and begin the negotiations.

Mgr. Sterner noted that certain waste haulers are asking citizens to sign contracts for garbage service. Sterner cautioned citizens to read those contracts closely, that they are binding and difficult to terminate. With the Borough's plan for contracting garbage service, saving considerable money on quarterly bills, all citizens should be encouraged not to enter into those contracts.

Sterner reported that a delegation from our sister city Ste. Mere Eglise, France, are planning a trip to the US in October and will be in Gettysburg October 8 through 10. We will be asking citizens to house the guests during their stay. Mrs. Simpson named Walt Powell (chair), Mrs. Gustafson, Stacy Schmeidel, Mr. Sterner and herself as a committee charged with making arrangements for housing and entertaining the visitors from Ste. Mere Eglise.

Mr. Sterner congratulated Councilor Schmitt upon his nomination to the Voter's Hall of Fame. He will be inducted into this prestigious group by Gov. Ridge in the ceremonial court room of the old court house on September 12 at 2:00 PM. This honor is bestowed on those who have voted in 50 consecutive general elections. Mr. Schmitt's record spans 63 years of consecutive votes.

Moved Mrs. Gustafson Mr. Eline second to exonerate G. H. Harris for collection of taxes as provided on the monthly report supplied by that firm. Carried unanimously.

Mr. Weikert, reporting as Fire Chief, informed Council that the volunteer fire department was working closely with Gettysburg Hospital to arrange for paid staff to man the ambulances during the daytime hours. The Hospital will employ EMT's to answer ambulance calls, with the cost born by the Fire Department.

Mr. Weikert continued by reporting that a recent inspection by the Insurance Service Organization (ISO) resulted in a very good rating (5 on a scale of 0 to 9) for the Borough. This is the lowest rating a volunteer fire department can receive. He also reported that both Cumberland and Straban Townships received a 5, lower by 1 point from our last inspection. He noted that the improvement in rating came about due to good staffing, response, and equipment of the department as well as a good water system provided by GMA. He reminded Council that in addition to saving taxpayers money through the use of volunteers, the favorable insurance rating also saves citizens and business owners money on insurance policies.

Mr. Lawver reported that Highway crews started the reconstruction of Long Land on this date. Completion is expected in two weeks. Arrangements will be made for Betty Myers to park while the work is in progress. He also reported that Columbia Gas is making better progress with their work downtown, and will soon finish the project. Our crews will install brick along the first one half block, west side, of Baltimore Street for the Gas company, and be reimbursed for our expense.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:22 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'C. Sterner', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Charles W. Sterner
Borough Manager